



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Israel

Prime Minister Shamir told members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the left wing was "distorting the truth" in claiming that by signing the Camp David accords, the late Menahem Begin had already agreed to the demands of the Palestinian leadership, Tel Aviv radio reported. Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Levi has "made it clear" that he does not intend to quit the Likud Party, the radio noted separately. In another development, Israeli President Herzog told Turkish television that the recent bomb attack in Ankara which killed an Israeli Embassy employee will not affect bilateral relations.

Jordan

Secretary of State James Baker is "the first balanced U.S. official to see the facts of the Arab-Israeli conflict" and to take "an honorable position toward them while still in power," a columnist wrote in AL-RAY. While Baker is no PLO advocate, he nevertheless knows it is not a U.S. interests "to antagonize 200 million Arabs and a billion Muslims for the sake of supporting Israel," the columnist asserted.

Palestinian Affairs

Spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi has said that neither the Palestinian nor other Arab delegations plan to withdraw from talks with Israel. Addressing foreign correspondents in Amman, she stated that the parties are only "at the beginning of the road," and that concluding that negotiations had reached a deadlock would be premature, Amman radio reported. Nevertheless, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the talks, stated in an interview with the Italian paper AVANTI! that "the whole peace process is in a deadlock." In another development, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and Palestinian envoy to the Jordanian Government, said that Jordan has the "full right" to demand the return of the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza. Speaking after talks with Jordan's King Husayn and Prime Minister Zayd Bin-Shakir, 'Abd-Rabbuh stated that "this does not contradict Palestinian sovereignty because it supports Palestinian objectives," according to SAWT AL-SHA'B.

Iraq

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz assessed his talks with UN officials in New York as "constructive," noting that the "time has come to consider lifting the blockade in a fair way," and that the UN should not base its decision on "tendentious political goals," INA reported. In another development, the clandestine Voice of Rebellious Iraq reported that Kurdish rebel fighters captured more than 3,000 Iraqi troops during recent clashes in the Aski Kalak area.

Libya

The International Court of Justice will hear Libya's request for a restraining order to prevent the United States and Britain from extraditing two Libyans implicated in the Lockerbie affair, MAP revealed.

Sudan

Large concentrations of Iranian troops believed to be members of that country's Revolutionary Guards have been spotted in the town of Tawkar on the Red Sea, the Cairo paper AL-WAFD reported. Two Iranian ships carrying small- and medium-caliber weapons and ammunition arrived in Port Sudan 2 weeks ago, the paper noted.

Pakistan

A special investigative committee has exonerated Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his family's business concern of having any role in the collapse of the country's cooperative finance system, Islamabad TV disclosed.

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi Rules Out Arab Boycott of Peace Talks

JN1003174392 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] The spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation holding negotiations with Israel said today that the peace process was on track, and she ruled out an Arab boycott of the talks.

Spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi told foreign press correspondents in Amman today that some achievements were made during the latest round of negotiations, and that there was no Arab decision to withdraw from or boycott the talks. She said that the parties are still at the beginning of the road and that it would be premature to say that they had reached a deadlock.

She added that the United States was committed to the peace parley which began last October. 'Ashrawi stated that U.S. Administration officials told the Palestinian delegation that America was committed to the peace process because the stability of the region was important to U.S. interests in the Middle East. 'Ashrawi noted that the Arab and Israeli sides have preliminarily agreed to meet again next month in Washington but that a final decision is pending further negotiations between all parties.

'Ashrawi was speaking to reporters a day after her arrival from Washington where a fourth round of Arab-Israeli negotiations ended last week with little progress in addressing the core issues of the Middle East conflict.

Delegation Head Assesses Latest Round of Talks

PM1003101492 Rome AVANTI! in Italian
6 Mar 92 p 11

[Interview with Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by Pierre Balanian in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Balanian] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, what is your assessment of the peace negotiations which have just ended in the U.S. capital?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This round of the peace talks is characterized by the absence of agreement. The Israeli side rejected our proposal on the "transitional period" and we rejected the Israeli proposal. We rejected it because it not only legitimizes the occupation but aims to strengthen it. As far as we are concerned the problem of settlements is still the main problem, and we are therefore energetically calling for the suspension of such violations. Just as we are also insisting on the implementation of the Geneva agreements to protect civilians under an occupation regime.... The "transitional phase" must recognize the Palestinian people's full rights.

[Balanian] The "transitional period" relates essentially to the method by which autonomy in the occupied

territories will be administered. How are your talks with Israel going on this question?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The Israelis refuse to give us full power and real authority in the Palestinian transitional government. They are insisting on granting us just limited administrative authority over health services, education, the municipalities, and so on. They are denying us the right to legislation, authority over our lands, and our waters.... All this strips the Israeli proposal of any real content and has the sole aim of making us accept the occupation, and we reject that. We must, however, take note of the fact that the current talks in Washington have ended without an agreement being reached, and that the whole peace process is in a deadlock. At this point we must therefore reassess all the conclusions hitherto reached to decide how to proceed in the future.

[Balanian] Two days ago you said that if there were not a peace based on justice and the Palestinians' right to self-determination and an end to the Jewish settlements, the violence in the occupied territories would continue and would have damaging consequences. Can you explain yourself more clearly?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Certainly. If the Israelis do not abandon their intransigence there will be no peace. And the continuation of the "state of war" can only pave the way for all kinds of consequences, especially violence and religious fundamentalism by both sides. In fact, the plan we put forward the day before yesterday is a full and detailed proposal which represents our view on the "transitional period." We have explained what powers we think that the local transitional government should have, and that it should be created by free elections. We want this so that we can fully enjoy our rights and so that the government formed in this manner can have full respect.

[Balanian] Of the 11 seats on the executive council of the Ramallah Chamber of Commerce—the only Palestinian body authorized by Israel—10 were won by the Hamas fundamentalist movement in the 4 March elections. Can the fundamentalists weaken the PLO's nationalist forces?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This is undoubtedly a sign of the fundamentalists' constant presence and perhaps also the fruit of some misunderstandings among the various nationalist factions. The advance of the fundamentalists makes us understand—and should also make the whole world understand—that it is necessary to insist on achieving peace as quickly as possible. Our stand, the Palestinian stand, is based on international law, on the UN Security Council resolutions, and on the Geneva agreements. The Israeli side, however, is still failing to take note and is violating international law, the UN resolutions, and the Geneva agreements.

[Balanian] How do you assess the U.S. role in these talks?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The current situation in fact represents the best test of the U.S. role in its capacity as "guarantor" of the success of the peace conference. We expect the United States to intervene in favor of international

law in harmony with the Security Council resolutions. This is the least that the Palestinian people expect and hope for. So far the United States has not agreed to Israel's demand for \$10 billion in loan guarantees and has even made this dependent on the suspension of Jewish settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. We certainly appreciate this firm attitude and we hope that the United States will maintain it, that it will really link the question of aid to Israel to a halt to settlements. In fact, the Israelis are continuing and intensifying the building of new villages and the introduction of new settlers. Consequently, the U.S. pressure on Israel must be increased. Even Europe—which until now has maintained optimum relations with Israel in all spheres—must take practical initiatives to persuade the Jewish state to accept peace.

[Balanian] Israel's elections are already approaching. Which party do you think would make the best contribution to the peace process if it won?

[Abd-al-Shafi] The positions of the Labor Party, compared with those of Likud, seem a little more flexible. At the same time, they are less flexible than the Palestinian people would wish. This is the real problem. The Labor Party, however, might be more flexible and reasonable on the peace process. Likud is now experiencing internal divisions among Levi, Shamir, and others, and the Labor Party will probably benefit from this during the elections. And this could also influence the question of the U.S. loan guarantees. We will have to wait and see.

[Balanian] What is the present state of relations among the Palestinians, Syria, and all the Arab countries?

[Abd-al-Shafi] Our relations with Syria and with all the other fraternal Arab states are excellent. The Palestinian stand is supported by all the Arabs and goes hand in hand with all the logical requests for a just peace. I want to invite everybody, the United States, and above all Europe, to examine more closely what is happening. I do not understand or share the attitude which the world has adopted of an uncertain and indifferent observer toward Israel's intransigence and the continuing violations of international law.

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh Views Jordanian Confederation

JN1103093292 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
11 Mar 92 pp 1, 15

[By Riyadh Mansur]

[Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestinian leadership's envoy to the Jordanian Government, has described his talks with His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir as positive and constructive. In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that King Husayn affirmed his readiness to give momentum to and reinforce Jordanian-Palestinian coordination at the highest levels, to serve the common

objectives to end the Israeli occupation and achieve the Palestinian people's national rights.

The Palestinian leadership's envoy noted that Jordan has proven through the peace negotiations that its proposals are neither insufficient nor ahead of the Palestinian proposals. He added that this is an expression of the unity of the stand to make the joint delegation experiment a success.

In his answer to a question 'Abd-Rabbuh said: The success of the experiment of a joint delegation has underscored Jordanian-Palestinian ties within the framework of the confederation endorsed by the Palestine National Council. He said that the agreement reached between the Jordanian Government and the PLO leadership before the Madrid conference provided guidance for the joint delegation during the past period.

'Abd-Rabbuh affirmed the need to formulate a joint Jordanian-Palestinian future. He said: It is time that we found the means to entrench our relations on firm and clear grounds.

The Palestinian official stated: In light of Security Council Resolution 242 and the Jordanian-Palestinian confederation agreement, Jordan—together with the Palestinians—has the full right to demand the return of the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza. He noted that this [does not] contradict with Palestinian sovereignty and self-determination because it supports Palestinian objectives.

'Abd-Rabbuh added: We should not dwell on old sensitivities or transient things, so as not to give the Israeli enemy an opportunity to sow secondary differences and expand them with the aim of splitting the unity of the Palestinian-Jordanian position. He said that confederation will remain a firm objective which is in harmony with both peoples.

'Abd-Rabbuh accused the Israeli Government of obstructing any progress in the Washington talks due to the intransigent position of its delegation vis-a-vis the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace which guarantees the Palestinian people's national and legitimate rights.

The PLO Executive Committee member believes that no substantial progress will be achieved in the political process before the Israeli elections. He noted that there will more intransigence on the part of the Likud government. In addition, he added, the occupied Arab territory will witness repression and terrorism against the Palestinian people.

He added that the Israeli Government will intensify terrorist acts against Lebanon and against the Syrian and Palestinian presence there. This is the real program of the Shamir government, he noted.

Commenting on suggestions to suspend the peace process until after the Israeli elections, he stated: The Palestinian side will continue the negotiation process, given that negotiations represent one field of the battle

that we are waging at the highest levels, including the international level, against Israeli policy.

'Abd-Rabbuh added: We will continue to negotiate, even with the Shamir government, on the bases of our program and our legitimate objectives that rely on international legitimacy. He explained that the Shamir government is responsible for obstructing the peace process.

Answering another question, he said that the position of the Israeli Government is important on more than one level, not only internationally but also on the Israeli street, which is still at a loss between Shamir's policy and the desire to achieve peace.

In wondering whether this step will stop the work of Israeli bulldozers, the Palestinian official reasserted that the United States' insistence on not giving Israel loan guarantees is a sign of good faith on the part of Washington. He noted, however, that what is important is that the U.S. position is factor helping to pursue the battle against settlement activity.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that he hoped Washington's position will be fair and balanced. He declared that the Palestinian leadership does not want anything from Washington except for the cessation of settlement activity. This, he noted, is an official U.S. commitment that was made to the teams participating in the peace process.

The Palestinian official also called for the holding of an Arab meeting of the frontline states at the highest levels to assess the results of the previous stage, to prepare for the next one, and particularly to prevent any Arab party from concluding unilateral agreements with Israel.

PLO Official Terms Lockerbie 'Fabrication'

LD1103052192 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab
Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text:] 'Abd-al-Rahim Mulawwah, member of the PLO Executive Committee and member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, described the case of the Pan-Am aircraft explosion as a fabrication, pointing out that three years ago the West accused other parties of this. Mulawwah said in a statement to the Tunisian newspaper AL-HURRIYAH that he fears these accusations might later be directed against other Arab parties, including the PLO.

He emphasized that it is unbecoming for a superpower claiming to be the custodian of international security to continue making accusations left and right for well-known political and economic reasons.

Editorial Says Israel Needs Leader 'Like Begin'

TA1003161392 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
10 Mar 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Begin: The Last Giant in Israel?"]

[Excerpts] Israeli leader Menahem Begin passed away yesterday. His death not only had an extremely deep effect on the camp of his friends and followers but also in the ranks of the parties that opposed his policies and ideology. [passage omitted]

If Israel has lost one of its leaders, there is no doubt that in light of the delicate stage through which Israel is now passing it is in the utmost need of men like Begin—a man who would fight the entire world if convinced of a certain position. With Begin's death many of the secrets that he refused to talk about will be buried with him, including his decision to relinquish power and politics after the Lebanon war and his refusal to receive former U.S. President Jimmy Carter during his visit to Jerusalem.

We Palestinians remember Begin and recall many of the acts that he perpetrated against the Palestinian people, in particular the slaughters of Dayr Yasin and Sabra and Shatila, but we have to respect this man's courage and his commitment to his principles. It would have been easier to find a solution to our conflict with Israel if an Israeli leader in the current leadership enjoyed Begin's qualities. Many friends and foes are convinced that had the current leadership been in power when al-Sadat announced his historic decision, it is doubtful that peace would have been achieved between Egypt and Israel, regardless of the negative or positive aspects of this peace. When we see what has happened to the process these days—from Madrid, to Moscow, and to Washington—it becomes very clear how much Israel is in need of a leader like Begin, who would make difficult decisions and shoulder responsibility.

With the passing of Begin the era of giants in modern Israeli history has come to an end. Whether you were with or against him during his political life, he earned the respect of everyone around him. His followers considered him a mentor and a teacher, and some of them even regarded him as a prophet although the era of prophets is over.

Algeria

Ghozali Notes Plan To Free Detainees

LD1103000292

[Editorial Report] Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic at 2134 GMT on 10 March broadcasts a 66-minute recorded studio interview with Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali conducted by journalists Nouara Jaafar and Mohamed Zghiba. The discussion focuses mainly on economic issues, and the prime minister repeats many of the views he expressed in interviews with Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French on 26 February and Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic on 27 February.

He explains first that current food price increases are due to various causes: middlemen, market laws, and rising consumption during Ramadan. The government subsidizes basic foods such as sugar and flour but cannot do so to import tomatoes or squash. Those who criticize the government should have a look at its program of action to redress the economy, he says. This includes land reclamation, drilling wells, and creating jobs. The prime minister says that his government is not seeking to destroy the public sector, as some speculate. The government rejects all ideologies. It wants to mobilize all potentials to lift the economy out of its current problems. Ghozali repeats that the aim of his government is to help institutions recover financially and then to let them follow the market economy and fend for themselves.

Ghozali recalls that he knew that the people wanted change and he emphasizes that change does not mean just changing government members. To him, change is a long-term aim. This means change in thinking, the restoration of moral authority and the prestige of the state and administration, and changes in ways of managing the economy.

Ghozali then recalls the recent events in which 70 people were killed and says that in reacting to violence the government was defending the security of the people. The government never said that dissolving the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) meant resolving the problems of the country, he adds. Ghozali recalls how the current government system was brought about: The Constitutional Council set up the Higher State Council, then Boudiaf, a nationalist, was called in, and the government continued its work. Being in power in Algeria today, he says, means 100-percent sacrifice. He, for one, would prefer to be with his wife and children, but he wants to serve his country. Ghozali says that all Algerians should work and shun sterile criticism. Boudiaf's idea of a national rally party does not mean the political elimination of other parties, as some fear and claim, he emphasizes. Asked about detainees, the prime minister promises that, except for criminals, they will be released before the end of this month.

[Jaafar] "Before we end the program I have a question concerning the detainees. We have heard that a number of prisoners will be released.

[Ghozali] "God willing, before the end of this month, God willing, there will be the release of....

[Jaafar, interrupting] "Yes, Your Excellency the head of government, with regard to the situation of the detainees, there is the anxiety of the families of the detainees. Is this situation which is experienced by the prisoners a tragic one that requires urgent measures to lift this....

[Ghozali, interrupting] "Look here, sister Nouara, the situation of any man, whatever crime he committed, of any man in prison is unnatural. Nobody is happy with these detentions. Naturally there were possibly excesses or mistakes in the circumstances in which these detentions took place. Screening is going to take place and we will distinguish between the person who really made a mistake or broke the law and those who were the victims of mistakes. Our hope is that these people will be released as soon as possible. In any case, however, nobody can be happy when he knows that his brother is in jail."

In conclusion, Ghozali says that the main task of his government now is to improve the country's economic situation. He says that he always prefers to convey to the people a true picture of the national situation.

FFS Calls for Constituent Assembly Elections

LD0903232492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 2300 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] The executive committee of the Socialist Forces Front (FFS) issued a communique after its meeting yesterday in which it pointed out that a break with the previous regime, as promised by the present one, has not taken place.

It called for ending links with what it described as [word indistinct] of democracy through the election of a constituent assembly and the formation of a provisional government composed of men of integrity.

Hamis Leader Discusses Banning of FIS

PM1003142592 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 7 Mar 92 p 3

[Telephone interview with Cheik Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Islamic Society Movement, Hamis, in Algiers by Bashir 'Abd-al-Hafiz in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-Hafiz] Is it possible to know Hamis' [Islamic Society Movement] reaction to the administrative council's decision to dissolve the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS]?

[Nahnah] The dissolution of any party, even if it is the FIS, does not mean the end of the world. It is a method on which some states rely in the belief that it serves and safeguards their existence. This comes within the framework of the rules of the political game. Because parties in general, like the desert sand, have the ability to move from one place to another as a result of internal or external factors, the real solution is to kill any idea that calls for violence and any idea that rules out tolerance and suppresses freedoms. The solution is a compromise in the face of any difficult problems.

We have learned this from our heritage. And it is not reasonable to create a party and then abolish it with one stroke of the pen. Nor is it reasonable for a party in Algeria to have recourse to a method that oversteps the bounds of the law and ethics.

[Abd-al-Hafiz] How do you see the stage ahead following the FIS' dissolution?

[Nahnah] We have a strong concern regarding the marginalization of the political parties' role and their encirclement by disturbing the political atmosphere so as to harm security and stability—which requires that the authorities open the door to political activity free of any pressures. And Hamas as an Islamic political movement continues its political and social role through dialogue, tolerance, care for the national interests, the protection of freedoms, respect for human rights, and increasing interest in the people's Arab and Islamic identity. Hamas continues its positive opposition without fooling around or quarrels in order to serve the homeland and its constants.

[Abd-al-Hafiz] How are relations between Hamas and the Higher State Council, and especially your relationship with Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf?

[Nahnah] Hamas is an opposition political movement and the Higher State Council is the highest ruling authority in the country, so what could the relationship possibly be between the opposition and the regime?

But our opposition is described as being positive, and we have the slogan: "We tell the one who has done well: You have done well, and the one who has done badly: You have done badly."

As for Boudiaf as a person, he is one of the men of the Algerian liberation revolution. He joined the opposition after independence and was forced to operate from outside Algeria. He stayed away from his country for nearly 40 years [figure as published]. He now wants to offer his country something, and we believe that he can only do this if he proceeds from the protection of the people's Arab and Islamic identity, in cooperation with sincere people and movements in this homeland and without any repression, terror, expulsion, abolition, tyranny, or autocracy. [passage omitted]

[Abd-al-Hafiz] There have been rumors recently that some FIS supporters have joined Hamas. What truth is there in this?

[Nahnah] After what happened to the political experiment to change conditions, many people, including FIS supporters, realized that Hamas is correct in its strategy, rhetoric, and working method. And we believe that our strategy has triumphed. What is required is to deepen and crystallize the Islamic political experiment. [passage omitted]

Official Cites Efforts To Prevent Price Increases

LD1003201192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Here is Mohamed Daif, director of price controls at the Ministry of Economy, to explain to our colleague Saadaddine Foudail the measures taken by the ministry to end the spiraling rise in prices:

[Daif] Although the market price of fruits and vegetables is unrestrained and is subject to supply and demand, we in the central administration and in all provinces have taken all possible measures. All price and quality control officials are monitoring the wholesale market in particular at appropriate times. This means monitoring forms of trade exchanges and selling to small traders, which [selling to small traders] will be compulsory and will be done through the use of vouchers. [passage omitted]

In any case, all price control and excise officials have been mobilized to monitor the market and prices. This has included recently referring some parasites to justice without exception.

Religious Affairs Minister Meets Mosque Imams

LD0903203592 Algiers ETV Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Hassan Palace in Martyrs Square in the capital today hosted a meeting of mosque imams which was attended by the minister of religious affairs. A number of concerns and issues pertaining to mosques and imams were discussed. Mourad Abbou reports:

[Abbou] The pulpit will remain a pulpit, the mihrab [the recess in mosques indicating the direction of Mecca] will remain a mihrab, and the imam will continue to carry out his cultural mission. This is what the minister of religious affairs said when he met today with imams of mosques and Koranic instructors of Algiers Province. [passage omitted]

The minister said in Islam the mosque is a place of cultural and spiritual radiance. Some people have used it as a pulpit for slander and defamation far removed from Islamic morality. [passage omitted]

Egypt

'Amr Musa Urges Diplomacy in Lockerbie Affair*PM1003144792 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 7 Mar 92 p 3*

[Kamal Yunus report: "'Amr Musa Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: It Would Be More Appropriate To Hand Over Two Accused Libyans to the United Nations"]

[Text] Tunis, Kamal Yunus—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that if the two Libyans accused in the Lockerbie case must be handed over, it would be more appropriate to hand them over to the United Nations on the grounds that it is the institution whose arbitration is sought by the world as a whole. In a statement at the end of his official visit to Tunisia the day before yesterday, Musa denied the possibility of the two accused being handed over to Egypt. If, he said, does not intend to try them on its territory. Musa described his visit—the first by an Egyptian foreign minister to Tunisia in 15 years—as successful and fruitful. He said that he held talks with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, members of his government, and Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya on the Libyan-U.S. crisis and ways of ending it peacefully. He said that he conveyed a message from the Egyptian president concerning this question in addition to bilateral relations and the situation in the region.

Musa pointed out that he also met in Tunis with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and a number of his aides, among them Faruq Qaddumi, PLO Political Department head and PLO Executive Committee member, and Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member and the official in charge of its security organs. He said that his talks with the Palestinian leaders dealt with assessing the peace negotiations and ways of realizing a just solution based on the UN resolutions, which uphold the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and demand that Israel withdraw from the occupied territories.

In reply to a question by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's correspondent concerning the contents of the talks between the Egyptian and Tunisian ministers on the Lockerbie case, he said: "The talks included the position on the Arab and African situations and developments in the Mediterranean region. It became clear that the Tunisian and Egyptian positions are similar. There is also much room for understanding between the two capitals. This is because we view the various issues in the same way, and this includes the Lockerbie case, which preoccupies Tunisian officials just as it preoccupies Egyptians by virtue of the ties of neighborliness and the special relations binding the Libyan people with both the Egyptian and Tunisian peoples."

Asked about the possibility of the two accused Libyans being handed over to Egypt to stand trial there, 'Amr Musa said: "Egypt does not intend to try the accused on its territory. They might be tried in Tunisia or another

neutral state such as like Sweden." He added: "As far as we in Egypt are concerned, international law does not compel Libya to hand over the accused. And there is no extradition agreement between Washington and Tripoli. If they must be handed over, it would be more appropriate to hand them over to the United Nations, on the grounds that it is the only international organization whose arbitration is sought by the entire world."

The Egyptian minister said: "We believe that positive progress has occurred in the Lockerbie case, for the UN secretary general's report noted some progress in Libya's position. Also, Libya has announced that it will refer the case to the International Court of Justice and its charter—which presages the possibility of a relative relaxation in the situation despite reports we have received from New York claiming that the United States, Britain, and France intend to request the UN Security Council to issue a new resolution against Libya."

Asked about the nature of that anticipated resolution in light of the moves made by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Egyptian diplomacy, 'Amr Musa said: "I do not believe that the Security Council will issue severe resolutions against Libya like those issued against Iraq following its occupation of Kuwait. Nor do I believe that in its next resolution the Security Council will seek to impose an all-out economic and air blockade, despite the U.S. insistence on demanding that the accused be handed over. The United States will not embark on a decision that would damage the Libyan people's dignity and harm the interests of the Libyan, Egyptian, and Tunisian peoples despite Libya's adherence to implementing Resolution 731." 'Amr Musa told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Egyptian and Tunisian diplomacy is working to find a solution to the Lockerbie crisis that extricates Libya with the least possible damage and causes no harm to the image of the Arab people, who reject terrorism and the blowing up of civilian aircraft as a matter principle.

'Amr Musa described the blowing up of the Lockerbie plane as "an ugly and unacceptable act which claimed the lives of innocent people." He added: "We demand a trial in order to clear ourselves as Arabs from the accusation of terrorism."

As for the economic, social, and political effects of this crisis on Egypt, 'Amr Musa told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "I cannot imagine that matters will reach the point of harming Egypt's and Tunisia's interests, for the Egyptian and Tunisian peoples have vital interests and ties of brotherhood and neighborliness with the Libyan people, and an estrangement between Libya and both Tunisia and Egypt cannot be imagined."

But 'Amr Musa went on to say: "One must be ready for all eventualities and to deal with any new situation. The matter depends on the resolution that the Security Council adopts and whether this resolution first takes into account the special status of Egypt and Tunisia."

On another level, 'Amr Musa revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that his talks with Tunisian officials produced a decision to activate the joint committees and to change the rotation for bilateral consultations from once a year to once every six months. It was also decided to increase trade between the two countries. Also, 'Amr Musa will follow up in Cairo the implementation of the trade protocol concluded by the Egyptian delegation in Tunis. 'Amr Musa announced that his talks with Tunisian officials included "the subject of extremist movements and coordination between Cairo and Tunis in fighting movements which seek to undermine security and stability and which employ Islamic slogans."

The Egyptian foreign minister pointed out that his talks with Tunisian officials on that subject included, in particular, "assessing the steps carried out since the visit to Tunis last summer by Egyptian Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa at the head of an important delegation, and also the Tunisian interior minister's visit to Cairo."

As for the relationship between extremists in Egypt and Tunis with the Sudanese regime and the future of relations between Khartoum and Cairo, the chief of Egyptian diplomacy told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's correspondent: "Our relations with fraternal Sudan are historical and strong, and special ties bind the Egyptian people to their brothers in Sudan. This is why we will seek to develop our cooperation with the Sudanese brothers." He went on to say: "Egypt believes that supporting acts of violence in the name of Islam does not benefit Islam, and we do not show leniency toward those who tamper with the security of Egypt and its borders." The Egyptian foreign minister denied that Egypt has border problems with Sudan. Asked about the statement made by Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir in which he demanded "union with Egypt," 'Amr Musa said: "I have not been informed of that request, and I have no comment on it."

Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about the topic of the Middle East and the peace negotiations, which are still faltering, 'Amr Musa said: "Israeli intransigence is clear. But in the recent negotiations documents were exchanged between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations. This is a step which we welcome because it has reactivated the talks in a manner which can bring about new grounds for negotiation. The negotiations must continue despite the faltering, which might indicate that it is natural for negotiation to begin with a clear difference in positions. And we in Egypt recall that Israel—through its former Prime Minister Menahem Begin—responded to President al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem with weak proposals and an autonomy plan for the Palestinians which I personally consider the worst offer in history. But Egypt—through negotiations—was able to obtain Israel's withdrawal from Sinai and forced Israel to propose a new autonomy plan for the Palestinians which was much better than its present plan. So let us continue the negotiations, for only through negotiations can we realize our just and legitimate Arab demands."

Official Supports Turkish Strikes Against Iraq

TA1003214692 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network
in Turkish 2100 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Yusuf Wali has declared that his country supports Turkey's operation against terrorism in northern Iraq. In a statement to the Turkish radio and television team in Cairo, Wali said: Turkey is correct, within the framework of international law, in conducting an operation against terrorist bases in neighboring countries from which attacks are launched against its own stability.

Pointing out that terrorism constitutes a threat which must be combated in the international arena, Wali announced that his country is ready to cooperate with Turkey on this matter. Wali also remarked that Turkey and Egypt could cooperate on relations with the Turkic republics in Central Asia. He added: Turkey is the strongest country in the region.

'Expert' Says Israel Seeks To Take Egypt's Water

NC1003120692 Cairo MENA in English 2252 GMT
9 Mar 92

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Cairo, March 9 (MENA)—Israel is planning for building 33 dams on rivers that feed the Nile with the aim of reducing Egypt's water quota by seven billion cubic meters, said a water affairs expert here tonight.

Israel steals most of the water of the River Jordan in addition to 75 percent of the subterranean water in the occupied territories," maintained Dr. Hamdi al-Zahri as he was speaking before a meeting of the Foreign Relations Committee of the People's Assembly (parliament) held under Dr. Muhammad 'Abdallah, the chairman, to discuss the water problem in the Middle East.

Turkey plans for having the upper hand in the region through the exploitation of its water resources," he said.

Libya

Court To Consider 'Restraining Order' Against U.S.

AU0703145992 Paris AFP in English 0919 GMT
7 Mar 92

[Text] The Hague, March 7 (AFP)—The International Court of Justice plans to open hearings on March 26 on Libya's application for a restraining order to prevent the United States and Britain from seeking the extradition of two Libyan terrorist suspects. The World Court, a United Nations affiliate, said Friday that Libya has asked it to forbid the United States and Britain from taking any measures designed to pressure Tripoli into extraditing two officials wanted for the December 1988 bombing of a Pan American airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The U.N. Security Council has called on Libya to cooperate with international investigations into the Lockerbie attack, which left 270 people dead, and the bombing of a French UTA DC-10 over Niger in September 1989 which killed 170 people.

London and Washington disagree with Tripoli's contention that the dispute is one among states, and they called on Libya to conform to the U.N. resolution.

Envoy, Lawyers Named

LD1003152492 Rabat MAP in English 1306 GMT
10 Mar 92

[Text] The Hague, Mar. 10 (MAP)—Libya will be represented at The Hague International Court of Justice by Muhammad Sharaf al-Din al-Fayturi, the country's ambassador to Brussels, a well informed source disclosed.

According to the same source, Libya will be assisted by four lawyers in its case against the U.S. and Britain. Tripoli accuses the two countries of violating four articles of the Montreal Convention of September 23rd, 1971 on "repression of illegal acts against the civil aviation security".

In London, British and French Foreign Ministers Douglas Hurd and Roland Dumas agreed last week that France, Britain and the U.S. should continue the same action toward Libya on the basis of Resolution 731 of the UN Security Council.

According to spokesman of the French Foreign Department, consultations are going on in the UNO [United Nations Organization] to make a new step to compel Libya to collaborate with the three countries' justice.

Some 800 Arab lawyers from various Arab countries said they are ready to help prepare legal documents on the Lockerbie issue, said Ahmad Khaddif, coordinator of Egyptian-Libyan relations. Libya, said the Egyptian official, will set up an Arab legal delegation to go to Geneva this March 26.

Sudan

Iranian Troops Establishing Bases in East, South

NC1103073292 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
4 Mar 92 p 6

["Iranian Affairs" column from "The Brothers" page]

[Text] According to eyewitnesses large groups of Iranians have been seen in Tawkar, on the Red Sea. Sources report that these groups, who are believed to belong to the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, began to flow into the area about a month ago.

Two Iranian ships carrying small- and medium-caliber weapons and ammunition arrived in Port Sudan two weeks ago.

Groups believed to be part of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard have been seen recently in the fortified area of Kirsaju [place-name as published] in the Red Sea Mountains. According to sources the Sudanese authorities have authorized them to settle in this area because it is out of sight.

The Khartoum authorities are currently in the process of establishing a military base and an airport in the area of Kundukr, north of Juba, the capital of southern Sudan. A naval base is also being built with Iranian assistance in Trinkitat, on the Red Sea.

Army Recaptures Pochala From SPLA

AB1003114292 Paris AFP in English 1054 GMT
10 Mar 92

[Text] Khartoum, March 10 (AFP)—Sudanese soldiers have recaptured Pochala town near the Ethiopian border from rebels and arrested Red Cross workers there, the military high command announced here Tuesday.

Troops on Monday seized the town, which had since 1985 been in the hands of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the Army said in a statement.

A team of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was taken prisoner "for entering Sudan without government permission".

"Charges will be brought against them," the statement added, without giving details of those arrested.

Government troops "annihilated the rebels in the town and seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition", according to the communique.

Relief workers in Nairobi reported Monday that Pochala was under attack from Ethiopia, but they were unable to confirm rebel claims that the offensive had been launched by Sudanese troops.

"Heavy fighting" occurred on Sunday, the relief workers said.

Aid workers last week said that the relief wing of John Garang's SPLA had recently been moving 12,000 young boys from camps at Pochala and Pakok [place-name as received] near the Ethiopian border southwards to Narus, near the border with Kenya.

Thousands of southern Sudanese, including boys aged five to 12, fled to Pochala from Ethiopia, where they had sought refuge from the war in Sudan, when the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) ousted Colonel Mengistu Haile-Mariam's regime last year.

The EPRDF has close links with Sudan, which allowed its territory to be used for aid shipments to rebels in Ethiopia.

The SPLA has been fighting since 1983 to end Islamic domination of mostly Christian and animist southern Sudan.

Kuwait

Official Consults Security Council Envoys on Iraq

LD1003145492 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1335 GMT
10 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, 10 Mar (KUNA)—Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin held talks with ambassadors of the five UN Security Council permanent member states accredited to Kuwait on the occasion of last night's Security Council meeting to discuss the extent of Iraq's commitment to Security Council resolutions on the question of Kuwait.

At the meeting, which the Foreign Ministry called for last night, al-Shahin briefed the ambassadors on Security Council guidance in light of the participation of Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz in the Council meeting.

The various sides exchanged views on how to counteract the Iraqi regime's proposals to use the pretexts of hunger and suffering to lift the sanctions imposed on it during the occupation of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Iranian Envoy Discusses Planned Return of Aircraft

LD1003180892 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT
10 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, 10 Mar (KUNA)—Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received in his office this morning Hoseyn Sadeqi-Chahardangeh, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to Kuwait. Ambassador Sadeqi-Chahardangeh told KUNA afterward that he discussed with Shaykh Salim bilateral relations and topics of common interest, in addition to Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati's [upcoming] visit to Kuwait.

In reply to a question by KUNA on Kuwait's aircraft now in Iran, the ambassador said that there is no problem with returning these aircraft, which were taken

by the Iraqi regime. He explained that the process of returning them to Kuwait is going through routine administrative procedures to conclude the matter. As for how long such administrative procedures will take, the Iranian ambassador predicted that they will take a few days. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting

LD1003150192 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio
Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Excerpt] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers at al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh at 2200 yesterday evening.

After the meeting His Excellency Information Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA in which he said: After the Council familiarized itself with a general report on the main Arab and international developments of the hour in the political, security, and economic spheres, his majesty the king and the Council reviewed several domestic issues in preparation for the necessary measures to be taken once the general committee of the Council of Ministers has completed the formalities.

The information minister added that the Council reviewed a report on Arab and international reactions to the proclamation of three statutes by royal decree last Sunday. In this connection King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz expressed his great appreciation for the welcome expressed by the leaders of fraternal and friendly states. He pointed out that the huge amount of telephone calls, cables, and messages, in addition to coverage by Arab and Western media of the proclamation of the statutes, is a clear indication of high interest in the Kingdom and the prestigious status that it enjoys in the world. [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz Continues UN Talks in New York**Meets With Security Council Officials***JN1003201892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT
10 Mar 92*

[Text] New York, 10 Mar (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and the delegation accompanying him held a meeting with UN officials here today that lasted more than three hours.

Tariq 'Aziz held a meeting with Venezuelan Ambassador Diego Arria, president of the UN Security Council. It was attended by Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, director of the International Organizations Department at the Foreign Ministry; and Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations.

Immediately after this meeting the deputy prime minister held another meeting with the ambassadors of the non-aligned member states of the Security Council: Zimbabwe, India, Morocco, Cape Verde, Ecuador, and Venezuela.

The second, two-hour meeting was attended by the members of the delegation accompanying Tariq 'Aziz, who briefed the meeting on the details of Iraq's position on the Security Council resolutions.

Terms Talks 'Constructive'*JN1003203092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT
10 Mar 92*

[Text] New York, 10 Mar (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has emphasized that the high-ranking Iraqi delegation carries complete and documented details concerning Iraq's Compliance thus far with the UN Security Council resolutions. He said: The delegation has come to the United Nations in goodwill and in a sincere, constructive, and practical effort to achieve an understanding on future action with the Security Council.

In statements to journalists following his meetings with the Security Council president and the Nonaligned ambassadors, 'Aziz stated: The two meetings during which the Iraqi delegation explained the nature of its visit to the United Nations, were constructive.

He explained that Iraq hopes that the UN Security Council will cooperate with Iraq in reaching constructive results and a fair implementation of the resolutions, as opposed to an implementation based on tendentious political goals.

He emphasized that the Council must differentiate between the fair and tendentious implementation.

'Aziz said: The delegation will present to the Security Council Iraq's complete position. The delegation has documented evidence concerning its fulfillment of its commitments.

He explained that the Security Council must now lift the blockade imposed on 18 million Iraqis because the Iraqi people are experiencing difficult conditions because of it. These conditions, 'Aziz added, were detailed in official UN reports as well as reports by other independent international organizations.

He added: The time has come to consider lifting the blockade in a fair way. This consideration should not be based on tendentious political goals.

He said: Iraq has an excellent scientific plan for transforming its machinery and equipment from military to civilian uses. The expert members of the delegation are prepared to explain this in detail in order to reach a fair agreement in this regard.

Saddam Chairs Regional Command Meeting*JN1003143292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1419 GMT
10 Mar 92*

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Mar (INA)—Comrade leader Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'ith Party, chaired a meeting of the Regional Command today.

The meeting was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office.

Assembly Speaker Urges Parliaments To End Blockade*JN1003185792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1726 GMT
10 Mar 92*

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Mar (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has urged the speakers of the parliaments of the Security Council member states to stand by Iraq to save the lives of 18 million Iraqis from the serious consequences of the economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

In letters sent today to the speakers of these parliaments, the National Assembly speaker said that over the past 10 months Iraq has met its obligations stated in Resolution 687 and fully cooperated with the UN inspection teams which visited Iraq to implement the provisions of the aforementioned resolution, by permitting them to move and work freely, enjoy the necessary immunity, and to pay surprise visits to various Iraqi installations.

The letters say that Iraq wishes the delegates of the Security Council member states to consider Iraq's compliance with Resolution 687 in an objective and positive spirit and without prior positions influenced by rumors from the mass media, which are concealing facts from the Security Council, trying to derail it from its principal responsibility to preserve security and peace, and which wish to harm its resolutions which are being examined by the world public opinion which is shocked by the prolonged blockade of Iraq. The National Assembly speaker emphasized that the insistence of some permanent Security Council member states on maintaining the blockade can be explained only by their desire to spread

hegemony over the Security Council and its resolutions, which should instead be in the interest of right, justice, and humanity.

He pointed out that we expect the delegates of the Security Council member states to show a positive attitude toward and an understanding of Iraq's position during the Council's upcoming session. This, he said, will undoubtedly have deep positive effects on Iraq's future relations.

It has been learned that these letters were sent to the speakers of the parliaments of the 12 Security Council member states: Russia, China, Austria, Belgium, Ecuador, India, Zimbabwe, Cape Verde, Japan, Morocco, Hungary, and Venezuela.

More on Clashes Between Government, Kurds

Kurds Said To Capture 3,000

NC1003155192 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellion
Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] In the city of al-Sulaymaniyah, which is under the Kurdish revolutionaries' control, a high-ranking brigade commander in the 417th Infantry Division [as received] recently escaped [words indistinct] by giving himself up to the Kurdish peshmerga revolutionaries along with personnel from his brigade. He was also accompanied by 12 tanks, which were handed over to the revolutionaries.

In another development, the peshmerga troops, while in the past few days confronting an attack by the remnants of Saddam's troops against the Aski Kalak area, captured more than 3,000 of Saddam's soldiers. The Kurdish revolutionaries did not want to announce this figure for reasons of their own.

Kurdistan Front Launches Strike

NC1003173292 (Clandestine) Voice of the People
of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] At 1900 on 9 March Kurdistan Front forces consisting of the peshmergas of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), the Kurdish Democratic Party, the Socialist Party of Kurdistan, the Kurdistan Independence Party, and Iraq's Communist Party attacked in four directions enemy forces assembled near the villages of Suradi, (?Yadijan), Haffar, and Topzawa in retaliation for an offensive launched by Iraqi Government forces. The Kurdistan Front forces succeeded in defeating the enemy troops and killing some of them, as well as inflicting the following material losses:

1. Two tanks destroyed.
2. Four vehicles destroyed.

Our forces captured three POW's and captured the following weapons and equipment:

1. One 60-mm mortar.
2. Five RPG launchers.

3. One [name indistinct] machine gun.
4. One [name indistinct] sniper rifle.
5. Three Kalashnikov assault rifles.
6. Three radio sets.

Three peshmerga personnel were martyred.

PUK Secretary General Jalal Talabani sent congratulatory cables to the Kurdistan Front peshmergas and to brother (?Jabbar Tarman), commander of the PUK's 1st Army, on the occasion of this victory.

Fighting Continues North of Karkuk

NC1003150792 Paris AFP in English 1400 GMT
10 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Zakho, Iraq, March 10 (AFP)—Kurdish guerrillas and Iraqi troops have been fighting since Sunday over a bridge that the rebels had retaken earlier this month, reliable sources reported here Tuesday.

The reports followed those from Damascus that Iraqi troops backed by tanks and helicopters had clashed with guerrillas in battles sparked by an Iraqi attack Sunday on three villages north of the oil city of Karkuk.

But the sources here in northern Iraq indicated that the fighting over the bridge was in an area further to the north than that referred to by a spokesman for the rebel Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) in Damascus.

The Iraqi Army has meanwhile been on maneuvers near the Syrian and Turkish borders with Iraq, close to areas under Kurdish control, the sources in Zakho said.

Fighting has taken place since Sunday some 15 kilometers (nine miles) south of Kalak Bridge, toward Karkuk, but there were no details on how many troops and guerrillas were involved.

Kalak Bridge, on the road between al-Mawsil and Irbil, was recently the scene of heavy fighting between Iraqi troops, who had taken the bridge on February 28, and rebels who regained control on March 2.

The confrontation left 60 people dead, including 50 Iraqi soldiers, according to reports from Kurdish sources in Zakho.

Many Kurdish guerrillas have since Sunday been sent to the area along the Syrian, Turkish and Iraqi borders—near the city of Faysh Khabur, reliable sources here said.

But they did not rule out the possibility that the deployment was a simple alert following Iraqi troop movements toward the region, which lies near the southwest limit of a security zone set up by U.S.-led allied forces last April. [passage omitted]

A PUK spokesman in Damascus said meanwhile that Iraqi troops on Sunday had raided the villages of Dalo, Rahim Kuta and Kalakut in the Shawan region [preceding three place-names as received], which lies further

north than the area mentioned by the sources in Zakho. Fighting in the region was reported to have continued until Tuesday.

Iraqi units clashed with guerrillas from the Kurdistan Front, a coalition of eight rebel factions including the PUK, the spokesman added.

More than 30 Iraqi troops have been taken prisoner and rebels have destroyed eight Iraqi tanks and seized heavy and light weapons, the PUK spokesman added, without saying whether the rebels suffered casualties.

PUK leader Jalal Talabani on Sunday called on the Kurdish population in a radio message in Kurdistan "to participate in elections planned for April in Kurdistan" to elect a pre-autonomy assembly, the spokesman recalled.

Talabani rejected the principle of negotiations over Kurdish autonomy with the current Iraqi Government and recommended cooperation with the Iraqi opposition that has vowed overthrow President Saddam Husayn.

Negotiations began a year ago between Baghdad and Kurdish leaders on granting autonomy to the Kurds following an uprising in northern Iraq after Baghdad lost the Gulf war.

Khanaqin 'Popular Group' Kills 5 Regime Officials

NC1003153492 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebelious
Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] A state of chaos and deteriorating living conditions are gripping the city of Khanaqin as a result of the growing revolt by its people against Saddam and his rotten clique.

In the meantime, a popular group of Khanaqin heroes have dealt a strong blow to the humiliated 'Aflaqite culprits of terrorism and theft. The successful operation killed five officials of the atheist 'Aflaqite party and wounded others.

Popular Forces Kill al-Thawrah Soldiers, Officials

NC1003150192 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebelious
Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] As part of the heroic epics wrought by our courageous people, Baghdad recently has been the scene of several successful operations by our popular forces. A mujahidin strike group in the valiant city of al-Thawrah has attacked a vehicle of the tyrant's security forces which was patrolling the city's streets. They opened fire [words indistinct], destroying it and killing those inside it, including a security officer with the rank of captain.

A fedayeen group planted a bomb in one of the wings of the al-Thawrah security directorate. It killed four criminals and wounded a number of others.

There was widespread satisfaction among the citizens of this heroic city with the success of these two daring operations.

'Izzat Ibrahim Meets Autonomous Kurdistan Leaders

JN1003175792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT
10 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Mar (INA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], this morning met with Baha'-al-Din Ahmad, speaker of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region; Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji, head of the Executive Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region; and the secretaries general of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region.

During the meeting 'Izzat Ibrahim conveyed to them President Saddam Husayn's greetings wishing them, as strugglers, every success in carrying out their duties to serve our Kurdish people. He also asserted that the conspiracy which created the current situation in our country was concocted long before the events of 2 August, 1990, and that U.S., Zionist, and Atlantic enemies, as well as other agents, used all their wickedness to try to humiliate our people. But, he said, our people's heroic stand and steadfastness did not give them that chance.

The RCC vice chairman added that some agents within the Kurdish parties, who were raised by foreigners, were identified today by our Kurdish people because the exceptional circumstances experienced by militant Iraq have exposed every liar and opportunist agent. Our Kurdish people, he added, have discovered that an honorable and stable life and safeguarding honor can take place only through loyalty to the homeland, its soil, water, plains, and mountains.

'Izzat Ibrahim added that inevitable victory will be, God willing, the path that we share with the good sons of our people and with the good elements and parties of the Kurdistan Front, because it is the path of love and struggle against the forces of tyranny and falsehood which have brought disaster and evil to our Arab and Kurdish people throughout our history.

At the end of the meeting the speaker of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region and the head of the Executive Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region pledged to President Saddam Husayn in the name of our Kurdish people that they would continue to work under his honest leadership to safeguard this homeland's honor and unity.

The meeting was attended by the secretaries of the Ba'th Party Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah branches.

Kurds Suspected in al-Sulaymaniyah Bombing
JN1003200092 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
9 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Special monitoring [insat khass]—The number of casualties in the booby trapped car explosion in al-Sulaymaniyah on Friday has risen to 31 Kurdish citizens.

Sources from inside al-Sulaymaniyah said that the number has risen to seven people killed and 24 injured.

The sources added that the explosion, which is part of a series of bombings and similar incidents that have now been occurring for months in the northern region, caused considerable damage to nearby cars and buildings.

No information is available on the perpetrators of this act. Sources in the city, however, have said that armed forces competing for control over the Kurdistan region are suspected and that the explosion which resulted in this large number of casualties was part of a settling of scores among the armed Kurdish militias.

Al-Majid Said To Execute 10 Officers for Treason
NC1003200092 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] After the Kurdistan Front's peshmergas repulsed the enemy's attacks in the area of Aski Kalak, Irbil Governorate, 'Ali Hasan al-Majid executed 10 officers on charges of treason and desertion.

'Secret' Orders From Army Chief Revealed
NC0803201292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] of a "secret letter" dated 25 January 1992 and written by the Army chief of staff to Army units nationwide; place not given]

[Text] During his visit to the headquarters of the 5th Army Corps on 21-22 January 1992, the defense minister ordered that:

1. Army corps and units carry out training exercises in all types of weather and work in the most difficult conditions day and night so that all fighters have a high level of training and are competent in using all weapons and vehicles. This is so that they will be able to thwart any move or attempt by the enemy or saboteurs.
2. This year, especially the second half of the year, is to be used to train, raise morale, and restore the Army's fighting capability to attain the highest standards and prepare for any needed fighting.
3. Flexibility in the northern sector is forbidden. All members of Jalal Talabani's group should be arrested and detained.
4. All fighters, officers, and other ranks should ignore news reports about the dialogue with the Kurdish parties; obey the orders, recommendations, and directives

issued; and avoid following up any political development or waiting for the result of the dialogue between the state and the Kurdish parties.

5. The forces and units in the northern sector choose the appropriate time to raid and search villages and areas located near defensive positions. They should return to their defensive position bringing with them all the gunmen, including any armed person from the people's party—the Samir al-Sanjari group—or other parties. Their arms will be confiscated and will not be returned.

6. Upon carrying out the raids mentioned in Article 5 the coordination committees are to be informed: We are not secure because the saboteurs are near our positions, which affects security, and we will be compelled to move beyond the perimeter to carry out searches. This will be done without naming the villages or the areas which will be raided and searched.

Paper Details Saddam's Visit to Wasit Governorate
JN0903165092 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic
4 Mar 92 pp 4, 6

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has stated that it is not enough that doors be closed in the face of the bad but that doors should be opened from which dozens of machine guns would come out to mow the necks of the traitors, those who have paid no heed to the people's conscience and to their great cause which they uphold as a beacon to guide mankind.

This came during a visit that his excellency paid to Wasit Governorate last Thursday where he met with its governor and the secretary and members of the Wasit Ba'th Party Branch Command.

His excellency said: I highly value the Iraqis and pin great hopes on them in terms of their staunch steadfastness and their combat skills.

Addressing the party comrades, his excellency said: The people who were taken unawares are those to whom you did not assign any role. What shall we do with you? You did not assign them a role. You gave weapons to this or that person but did not give weapons to those who can be relied on.

You should have called this or that person and told him: Take 100 rifles for which you will be responsible. If one of these rifles is used against the security of the state or for something which has nothing to do with a cause, then things will be different.

His excellency added: Shameless people do not fight because fighting requires bashfulness, as well as anger. One also needs courageous stands when the homeland is harmed or the dignity of its citizens is violated. If there are people who do not get angry, do not get flustered, and whose moustaches do not twitch when the homeland is harmed, then these people will not fight.

Our principles are for all the good people. In battle, however, one must assess people case by case and according to their actions.

His excellency said: Many party and state officials have befriended the people on the basis of interests rather than principles. However, things are different now. We now all want to make friends on the basis of principles.

His excellency said: The most important thing now is that we must build. Love your people. When you say: We love our people, I will tell you: Love them more. Transform your relationship with the people into a solid bridge of interaction. If you become convinced that the people are satisfied with you, let them become more satisfied by building more and working more in a manner that will further satisfy God. That is the most important thing. As for the other things, such as going to battle, we prepare ourselves in case the need arises, but what is more important is to build more and more.

President Saddam Husayn paid a surprise visit to Wasit at 1200 last Thursday. No sooner had he set foot in al-Kut, the capital of Wasit Governorate, than the masses rushed forward to meet him, asked God to grant long life to the one who has shaped Iraq's glory, and told Bush, the emperor of injustice, that every voice in Iraq supports Saddam Husayn.

Let Bush, who embodies crime in this age, hear the sons of Wasit and the other Iraqi governorates chant: Bush, Bush, listen well: We all love Saddam Husayn.

State Subsidy for Supplies Now 1.5 Billion Dinars

*JN0703153692 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
5 Mar 92 p 1*

[Text] The annual subsidy which the state is providing for supplies regulated by ration cards amounted to 1.5 billion dinars.

A responsible source at the Trade Ministry said that the ministry will go ahead with providing at very low prices, compared to local market prices, food supplies covered by ration cards.

Since the beginning of September 1990 the ministry has supplied food rations for Iraqi citizens and Arab and foreign nationals in Iraq.

Paper Scores 'Double Standard' on Turkish Kurds

*JN1003094492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT
10 Mar 92*

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Mar (INA)—AL-'IRAQ has ridiculed the double standard policy adopted by the international alliance and its Security Council vis-a-vis the situation in Turkey's Kurdistan. In today's editorial, AL-'IRAQ says: It seems that crushing Turkey's Kurds, shelling them day and night, and killing their children and women does not fall within the framework of the "international" concept of human rights.

AL-'IRAQ wonders: Is it because you do not consider Turkey's Kurds to be human beings that you remain silent about what is taking place against them at the same time that you raise your voices against the illusions that you alone imagine about Iraq's Kurdistan?

AL-'IRAQ adds: Our Kurdish people know well the dirty game played by the states of the evil alliance and its Security Council. The paper adds that all honest Kurds ask these evil parties: What are the rapid-deployment forces doing in their bases in Turkey? Why do they not move to protect Turkey's Kurds who are deprived of their basic human rights, or, are those forces only deployed there to fool the Kurds?

Concluding its editorial, AL-'IRAQ says: Our Kurdish people will not be deceived by the falsehoods of the evildoers. Neither America nor Britain can be the protectors of human rights.

Shamir, Knesset Debate Autonomy, Begin's Legacy

TA1003164892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Excerpt] One day after the funeral of the late Menahem Begin, the members of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee argued over the question of what kind of autonomy Menahem Begin was referring to when he signed the Camp David accords.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the committee that the left wing was distorting the truth in claiming that Menahem Begin had in the past already agreed to what Hanan 'Ashrawi, Faysal-al-Husayni, and Yasir 'Arafat were now demanding. Our Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar reports:

[Begin recording] [Gilhar] Menahem Begin's death in the midst of the peace talks have placed the Camp David accords, which deal with autonomy, back on the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee's agenda.

CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] Knesset Member [MK] Yosi Sarid told the prime minister, who was the guest of the committee, that nothing was left of Begin's legacy after Shamir had torn everything to pieces. Sarid asked the prime minister whether he would be willing to implement what was stipulated in the agreements regarding the establishment of a strong Palestinian police force, a withdrawal of the Israeli military government upon the establishment of an elected Palestinian administrative council, and the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the territories.

During the debate, Yitzhaq Shamir claimed that Israel submitted to the Palestinians a conceptual proposal which corresponded to the principles embodied in the Camp David accords; however, the Palestinians rejected even this. Sarid replied: You have a reading comprehension problem. Shamir's rejoinder: I suggest we go and ask Hanan 'Ashrawi for her interpretation. I will not stoop to using your style. Shamir said, I hear enough of that from the Arabs and from their local supporters. Sarid shot back: When I see you, I see George Habash.

Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin spoke emotionally about Menahem Begin. He expressed the view that the autonomy plan as conceived by Begin remained the most appropriate solution even today. Shamir rejoined that when Begin spoke of autonomy, he did not include security issues, land, water, foreign affairs, or Jewish settlement. It is a distortion of the truth to say that Begin agreed to the current demands of 'Ashrawi, al-Husayni, and 'Arafat, Shamir asserted.

[Shamir] Today the Palestinians come and say that they reject the Camp David accords. By doing this, they are only making things easier for us and freeing us from a full commitment to the agreements. Although this is indeed the case, we are nevertheless following the framework of the Camp David accords in the negotiations.

[Gilhar] Labor MK Hagay Merom asked the prime minister what was more important: immigrant absorption or settlements. Shamir replied: It is as though you were to ask me whom I prefer, my son or my daughter. There is no contradiction between the two. Tehiya MK Ge'ula Kohen added that she was sure that Begin regretted the Camp David accords and the interpretation they were given.

Presenting peace as the be-all and end-all is wrong, she said. Kohen demanded that Shamir put a stop to this lie, slamming the table as she spoke. The prime minister replied: We want peace, but not at any price. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Shamir on Levi, Ties With Jordan

TA1003185192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Eli Nisan following Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session on 10 March; recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Nisan] Mr. Shamir, how would you describe your relationship with Foreign Minister David Levi after he abstained from meeting you last Sunday?

[Shamir] I do not know that he abstained from meeting me. He probably had a reason not to come to what actually was a routine meeting. I do not think our relations are in a serious state. Something happened: The Likud held internal elections and chose its representatives in the Knesset; certain confrontations occurred in the process, but they are over now. A climate of misunderstanding may have been created, but I think it is not justified. I hope we will overcome these misunderstandings, and we will go back to working together within the Likud, which is his as much as it is mine.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1800 GMT on 10 March carries a related report by Knesset correspondent David Ze'ev, who says that "Shamir downplayed the strains between Washington and Jerusalem." In a recorded passage, Shamir says: "I don't think that our relations are so bad but, well, there are some differences of view; there are from time to time some tensions. I hope we will overcome these differences."

[Ze'ev goes on to say that "behind the closed doors of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Shamir said the Israeli and Jordanian delegations at the Washington peace talks were on the verge of an agreement on an agenda. But the Jordanians backed off, said Shamir, because of pressure from what he is said to have referred to as other groups and various Arabs. The Jordanians have a constant problem, Shamir added. They are committed to the positions of the other Arabs and Palestinians, but also have their own interests. The prime minister said the Palestinian 12-page model—a proposal for

a Palestinian state, Shamir called it—was rejected outright by Israel without getting into details.”]

Levi Reportedly To Remain in Likud

TA1103073992 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Report by Yaron Deqel]

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi has recently made it clear to some of his associates that he does not intend to quit the Likud. At the same time, Levi halted all consultations by the heads of his camp during the seven days of mourning for Menahem Begin. The foreign minister accepted Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's invitation and will meet him tomorrow, for the first time since Levi's camp was defeated in the Likud Central Committee elections.

It is not yet clear whether Levi will accept the offer to head the Likud election campaign committee. Jewish Agency Treasurer Me'ir Shitrit, a Levi camp member who met with the prime minister, said he believes Shamir is seeking an arrangement with Levi.

Herzog—Bomb Attack in Turkey Not To Harm Ties

TA0903175092 Ankara TRT Television Network
in Turkish 1700 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Israeli President Hayim Herzog has said that the bomb attack against Ehud Sadam, the security officer at the Israeli Embassy in Ankara who was killed two days ago, was carried out by parties who want to prevent the development of relations between Turkey and Israel.

In a statement to the Turkish Radio and Television team in Tel Aviv, Herzog said that such attacks will not affect the bilateral relations that have risen to higher levels in recent years. He pointed out that terrorism is as serious a problem for Israel as for Turkey and added that Israel is ready to cooperate with Turkey against terrorism.

Egypt Asked To Free or Try Alleged Spy Suspects

NC1003162092 Paris AFP in English 1604 GMT
10 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, March 10 (AFP) - Israel has asked Egypt either to free four Israelis accused of spying or to place them on trial, an Israeli diplomat told AFP here Tuesday.

Meir Cohen, press attache at the Israeli Embassy, expressed concern over an Egyptian media campaign against Israel since the arrest of the four in early February.

The press comment, he said, “harms relations between the two countries and damages the regional peace process.”

Cohen disclosed that the Israeli position had been communicated to Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in a message last week from his Israeli counterpart David Levi.

The four Israelis in Egyptian custody are Faris Misrati, his children Fa'iqah and Majid, and David Ovitz.

Cohen reiterated his government's assertion that it was not involved “in any spying operation whatsoever against Egypt.”

Chief of Staff—‘Military Force’ on Iraq Needed

TA1103065892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0505 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Report by military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] Speaking before a public gathering in Tel Aviv last night, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, said that if Saddam Husayn is not taught a lesson for all to see, it will be hard to establish a stable peace arrangement between ourselves and our neighbors. It will be hard to do that when in the background there is this leader who, like the phoenix, rises from the ashes and rebuilds his arsenal of mass destruction. It is obvious that as long as Saddam and his regime are not toppled, there is a threat to the stability of the Middle East and to the whole world. Through continuous and secret efforts, Iraq is still hiding its nonconventional activity from the UN supervisory teams. They are concealing hundreds of Scud missiles and chemical weapons for use with artillery and planes.

[Begin Baraq recording] ...and also very extensive activity in its aspiration for nuclear ability. Today it is clear to the international community that the effort to expose Iraq's ability will not take weeks, but months, or perhaps even years. It will require determination—and walking up to and along the brink of military activity—to force Iraq to disclose whatever it has left. I suspect that eventually there may be a need to use military force against Iraq to make it further disclose its arsenals. [end recording]

As for Syria, Chief of Staff Baraq said we cannot explain the alleged discrepancy between the Syrian participation in the negotiations and its ever increasing armament. Gen. Baraq believes that al-Asad expects one of two things to happen: Either the maximal Arab demands will be accepted, or, if they are not, al-Asad will have better grounds from which to call on his Arab comrades to reevaluate their ways and rally around a policy of force against Israel. Al-Asad has chosen to enter the political process and present the highest demands, and then wait to see what happens down the road.

Reports on Incidents in West Bank, Gaza Strip

Man Shot Dead After Throwing Rocks

TA0903200792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1700 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] 'Abdallah Shami, 24, from the village of 'Asira al-Qibliyah, was killed by gunfire from IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in the Nabulus District this afternoon. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the man wore a mask

and threw rocks at an IDF unit patrolling the village. He was shot and killed while trying to flee. His body was taken to the Abu-Kabir Forensic Institute. A curfew was clamped on the village.

In the Gaza Strip refugee camps of Jabalyah and al-Shati', three residents were injured today as riots were being dispersed. One of them was seriously injured in the head, and the other two sustained slight injuries.

Troops Open Fire on Refugee Camp

TA1003060392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0500 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] In the territories, two masked Palestinians have been killed and five wounded by Army fire. The Army says soldiers opened fire in the al-'Arrub refugee camp near Hebron and in the village of 'Asira al-Qibliyah near Nabulus, after masked men attacked patrols with stones. The Army imposed a curfew on both the refugee camp and the village. Palestinians called a general strike in the territories yesterday to mark 51 months of the intifadah.

Gazan Shot Dead After Car Accident

TA1003084692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0830 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] There was another attempted attack a short time ago in Gaza. An Arab-driven vehicle hit a group of soldiers in al-Nasir Street in the town, slightly wounding four soldiers. They are now receiving medical treatment on the spot. After the Arab vehicle had crashed into a military vehicle, the driver alighted, tried to grab a soldier's weapon, and was shot dead. That is the initial information on the attempted attack a short time ago in Gaza.

Earlier this morning, an attempt to attack a soldier in Gaza was foiled. An Arab tried to attack the soldier with a 20-cm knife. The soldier fired in the air and overpowered the attacker, who was detained.

Chief of Staff Comments

TA1003132592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1300 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Barak said that there has been a certain rise in the number of terrorist attacks over the past 10 days, and it appears that this results from the continuing motivation of extremist elements among the Palestinians to disrupt the peace process. The rise in the number of attacks also stems from the improvement in weather conditions. Lieutenant General Barak pointed out that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is well equipped to handle the increase in terror.

As for this morning's terrorist attack in Gaza, in which a local resident was killed and five security personnel were lightly injured, the chief of staff stressed that the soldier who shot the terrorist reacted correctly when he saw that the man was attempting to grab hold of a firearm.

Qiryat Arba' Jew Gets Life for Murder of Arab

TA0903122092 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 9 Mar 92 p 9

[Report by Mikhal Goldberg]

[Excerpt] Yesterday the Jerusalem District Court gave a life sentence to Nahshon Wells, 34, from Qiryat Arba'. Wells was convicted of murdering an Arab woman in revenge for the murder of Jerusalem teenagers Li'or Tubol and Ronen Karmani a year and a half ago.

On 6 August 1990, after hearing media reports about the discovery of the youths' bound bodies, Wells took the carbine rifle he kept without a permit, hid it under his coat, and walked down to the southern fence of the Qiryat Arba' industrial district. At about 2200, he saw a Peugeot with an Arab license plate. Having ascertained that the passengers were Arabs, he fired three bullets, one of which hit Hebron resident 'Aziza Jabir in the head, causing instant death. [passage omitted]

Colonel's Dismissal Said Linked to Dotan Affair

TA0903100692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0900 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Tzvi Krochman, the commander of the central unit for special investigations in the Military Police, has been removed from his post after a military court ruled that he had committed perjury during his testimony regarding one of the defendants in the Rami Dotan affair.

In reaction, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman asserted that Lt. Col. Tzvi Krochman was leaving his position in accordance with the Military Police's routine practice of periodically reshuffling senior officers to different posts.

Eight Officers Disciplined for Negligence

TA0903060492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0500 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] The Army has taken disciplinary action against eight officers, following the killing of three soldiers at Ramot Menashe last month. The move came after the chief military prosecutor found them guilty of negligence and failure to carry out IDF [Israel Defense Forces] rules. Immediately after the incident, two officers and a local camp commander were demoted.

During the search for the killers of the three soldiers, the IDF turned down a police request to use an illumination helicopter to light up the area. Qol Yisra'el reporter Yo'av Aviv has learned that, according to a police inquiry, the request was made through the proper channels but was denied, and the initial request was made when the attackers were still nearby. The head of Central Command intervened on behalf of the police two and a half hours later, and only then was the illumination helicopter provided. The IDF spokesman has responded, saying the first request was denied because of security problems.

Baker Praised for 'Balanced' Stance on Conflict*JN1003110992 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic
10 Mar 92 p 26*

["Highlights" column by Fahd al-Fanik: "Thanks to Baker"]

[Text] After 210 articles written over 20 months against the United States and in support of the Iraqi people, moral courage prompts me to say that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is the first balanced U.S. official to see the facts of the Arab-Israeli conflict and to adopt an honorable position toward them while still in power.

Baker's position toward settlement activity and the need for it to end as of 1 January 1992 [date as published] is more advanced than the positions of the Arab delegations to the peace conference, including the Palestinian delegation, which did not dare to stipulate the halt of settlement activity out of its desire to maintain the peace process, until Baker opened the door and adopted a firm stand.

Prior to the Gulf crisis, Baker held Israel responsible for rejecting peace when he told the Congress: We did all we could for peace. Hence, if there is anyone in Israel who desires a peaceful solution, here is the White House telephone number.

Freezing the \$10 billion in loan guarantees to Israel, and stipulating an Israeli declaration that halting settlement activity is an official Israeli policy, are unprecedented and unexpected from any U.S. administration considering itself a strategic ally of Israel, which continues its loathsome occupation, its violations of human rights and international law, and its defiance of the UN resolutions.

Some of us may have neither understood nor appreciated this position, but the Jews certainly have. Therefore, they embarked on a campaign to defame Baker, brand him an anti-Semite, and demand his resignation as part of a dirty game aimed at assassinating him politically. What THE NEW YORK TIMES published last week by Jewish pens is nothing less than a battle of breaking bones and liquidating Baker.

It is appropriate to remember that Baker, in particular, did not play an effective role in the campaign of instigation and beating of drums of war against Iraq. He maintained distance between himself and the Gulf crisis administration, as well as the subsequent aggressive war. Baker was more in favor of solving the conflict peacefully.

Baker is neither Arab nor Arabized, and he is not an advocate of the PLO. He is an American seeking to protect the interests of the United States, first and foremost. It is not in the U.S. interest to antagonize 200 million Arabs and a billion Muslims for the sake of supporting Israel—not Israel's security but its occupation of others' lands, expulsion of people from their homes, blowing up houses, breaking bones, and all other practices the Zionists learned from the Nazis.

We have sufficient moral courage to thank Baker, who acted according to his human conscience and the true U.S. interests, and who rightfully testified in favor of Jordan and its role.

Attacking Baker by some of us at a time when there is a feverish Zionist campaign to liquidate him is a sign of miscalculation and misunderstanding, if we exclude bad intentions.

U.S. Jewish Lobby Uses 'Below-the-Belt' Tactics*JN0903073492 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
9 Mar 92 p 4*

[Editorial: "History is Repeated"]

[Text] Last Friday's NEW YORK POST article, by former New York Mayor Edward Koch, attributing an "obscene" remark about American Jewish pressure groups to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker appears to be a smear campaign against the entire U.S. administration in a desperate effort to pull the rug from under President George Bush's bid for reelection. Next thing you know, President Bush himself will be targeted by American Jewish lobbyists and their supporters in the U.S. Congress for simply daring to call a spade on the Israeli settlement programme in the occupied Arab territories and for refusing to grant the Israeli government the requested \$10 billion loan guarantees without a question asked or a condition attached. The blind supporters of Israel on Capitol Hill, who have become used to getting away with murder on anything touching Israel even if that ran counter to American national interests, are now so uneasy and perturbed by the outspokenness of Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker against Israeli arrogance and intransigence that they have begun to personally target the secretary of state.

Without drawing a parallel between the column of Koch, a notorious American Likudnik, that triggered the call for Mr. Baker's resignation, and the efforts by Israeli agents a few weeks ago to "doctor" a certain telephone conversation between PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his representative in Paris in such a way as to insinuate that the PLO leader harbours racist thoughts about Jews, there is little doubt that Israel and its supporters are upping the ante in their quest to defend Israel's wrongdoings. Such below-the-belt blows to anybody who dares to stand up to Israeli tactics are doomed to failure because the truth somehow comes out in the end and all efforts to disseminate disinformation and slander against the architect of the current peace process will surely backfire. There is already a strong sentiment in the U.S. against a carte blanche support for Israel. The strong showing by Republican Patrick Buchanan in his bid to oust the incumbent president provides ample food for thought on how the U.S. is turning away from this blind support. Mr. Buchanan's famous platform which calls for phasing out aid to Israel is drawing popular support and is a clear signal that Americans are getting

sick and tired of giving handouts to that country at a time when the economy of their country desperately needs help.

Surely the American people will be a better judge of Israeli tactics to mar the reputation of their leaders. Yitzhaq Rabin, the new leader of the Labour Party in Israel, has already served notice that Mr. Shamir, his opponent in the next Israeli general elections, has committed a historic blunder in trying to take on the Bush administration over the loan guarantees issue. Rabin is of course suggesting that Mr. Shamir and his supporters are simply biting more than they can chew by getting entangled in a contest with Washington. His message obviously has not come across loudly and clearly yet. But the strain on Israel is already showing signs of growing greater and more widespread.

'Key' Rescheduling Accord With London Club Signed

JN0703091592 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
7 Mar 92 pp 1, 5

[By P.V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Jordan has made a major stride in efforts to revamp its economy by reaching key debt rescheduling agreements with its creditors, clearing the way for increased attention on pressing domestic economic issues, according to informed officials and analysts.

A series of external arrangements was completed with an agreement in principle with the London Club of creditor governments on rescheduling the Kingdom's debt repayments due in a 24-month period starting mid-1991.

The terms and conditions of the rescheduling are similar to those Jordan agreed with the Paris Club of creditor governments last week, according to a well-informed economist, Dr. Fahd al-Fanik. A senior official confirmed that "the principles of rescheduling have been agreed with the London Club." But the official did not give details except that "further negotiations and definite agreements have to be reached with the individual institutions concerned."

"With the debt payments deferred, Jordan is in a better position to shift attention to pressing internal issues such as the rising cost of living and unemployment," the official noted.

The agreements in principle with the Paris and London clubs clear the way for separate bilateral accords with the concerned governments and institutions within the broad framework of the terms and conditions agreed upon.

Dr. al-Fanik, who writes a weekly column for the Jordan Times and a daily column for AL-RA'Y said the agreement with the London Club involved \$500 million—part of it arrears and part due by June 30, 1993. The amount will be paid after 10 years with a grace period of 10 years.

According to Dr. al-Fanik, Jordan owed a total of \$1.4 billion in arrears as well as dues to the London and Paris clubs during mid-1991 and mid-1993, and the amount involved in the Kingdom's agreement with the Paris Club was \$900 million, with the London Club accounting for the rest.

"Jordan has already paid part of the dues during this period and net amount due to the Paris and London clubs should be around \$1.4 billion," he explained.

The Kingdom's total debts to the Paris Club stand \$5 billion and to the London Club at \$1.5 billion. Arab and international funds and development aid agencies as well as governments outside the Paris Club account for the rest of the total foreign debts of \$7.2 billion, but these payments are not subject to rescheduling.

Dr. al-Fanik said a "small portion" of Jordan's commercial debts were sold by Kuwaiti holders at a discount of 50 per cent in the secondary market. "These deals were made immediately after the (Gulf) war ended (in the first quarter of 1991), but the amount involved was small," he said.

"Discounted rates for debts are theoretical," said Dr. al-Fanik. "More often than not, potential buyers find that the predetermined rate of discount is not available in the secondary market," he said.

The economist was referring to an effort in 1990 by Jordan to "buy-back" some of its commercial debts at a discount in the international market. The effort was abandoned when the Gulf crisis struck depriving Jordan of vital expatriate remittances, exports markets in Iraq and Kuwait, and Arab financial assistance.

Dr. al-Fanik and other Jordanian economists as well as diplomatic circles are of the opinion that Jordan does not stand much of a chance in getting debt write-offs, as was expected by officials last year.

"No debt write-off is in the cards for Jordan," said Dr. al-Fanik. Officials have said that Jordan might make a strong pitch for American help in the Kingdom's efforts for debt write-off during this week's talks in Washington between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. President George Bush.

"Jordan does not qualify for debt-write-off in the conventional sense since the Kingdom's per capita income is above \$800—the ceiling set under the Toronto protocol," said a Western diplomat. "Unless a new mechanism is worked out—which I strongly doubt—there is little chance for Jordan getting any debt write-off."

"But the fact remains most of its creditors are very sympathetic and they appreciate the Kingdom's efforts," the diplomat said. "In view of such sentiments and the ongoing Middle East peace process, which makes it imperative that Jordan's economy is stabilised, there are possibilities that some of the creditors might find ways and means to alleviate the Kingdom's burden."

Converting debts into investments and non-convertible bonds in Jordanian currency could be among the options, the European diplomat said.

Debt rescheduling is a crucial element in Jordan's efforts to restructure and revive its economy from the impact of problems accumulated since early 1980s and accentuated by the Gulf crisis which was sparked by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

An 18-month programme worked out with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is a major part of the Kingdom's drive to put its economy back on the right track. IMF certification of the programme and Jordan's adherence to it have cleared the way for the success in debt rescheduling negotiations.

Jordan is also expected to get about \$80 million in special drawing rights from the World Bank in line with the agreement with the IMF.

IMF Conditions 'Something We Can Live With'

JN0803094692 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
8 Mar 92 p 4

["Sunday's Economic Pulse" by Dr. Fahd al-Fanik: "The Eight Conditions of IMF"]

[Text] It is common knowledge that assistance extended by the IMF is conditional. It is therefore legitimate to ask what the conditions that Jordan agreed to adhere to were in order to obtain the full support of the IMF, as contained in the economic adjustment programme which came into effect this year, 1992.

In essence, the IMF normally agrees with the government concerned on a set of targets related to the budget and the balance of payments. It is left to the government to decide on the measures necessary to achieve the targets, as many options are normally available to the government to accomplish certain desired objectives. The targets are not conditions but objectives. If they are not achieved, additional measures will be prescribed.

For example, the programme aims at reducing the budget deficit in its first year to 14 per cent of the GDP [gross domestic product] instead of 18 per cent. The Jordanian government can achieve this through a variety of measures to reduce expense items, increase revenue sources or through a combination of both. The fund would not insist on identifying the particular expenses that must be reduced, or the particular revenues that must be increased or introduced.

The margin of freedom in choosing from multiple alternative courses of action would naturally grow as long as the agreed targets are achieved on schedule. In case of failure, the fund may interfere to recommend additional measures. If the failure was big, the recommendations might become conditions because the failure in adopting

effective measures would be interpreted as lack of seriousness on behalf of the government concerned to conduct a meaningful adjustment process. In that case, the IMF will leave it up to the government to deal with the creditors without an IMF certificate and support.

However, there are always certain measures which the government must undertake, normally specified in the letter of intent, to give credibility to the targets agreed upon. Otherwise, the targets will not be more than wishful thinking. The measures undertaken and their related timetable are what we call conditions. Since the Jordanian letter of intent was not published, the conditions that the government of Jordan had accepted are not known and some observers speculated that they might be too harsh to be accepted and implemented.

We shall therefore list the conditions agreed upon for implementation during the first year of the programme (1992):

1. Banks' credit facilities will not exceed 9 per cent a year. The purpose is to curb aggregate demand and keep inflation under control. The actual rate in 1991 was around 6 per cent.
2. The treasury shall not borrow on commercial basis in excess of a certain allowed amount, but it can borrow concessionary funds for long term.
3. The government will start in the second half of 1992 to prepare the legal instruments and the procedures for imposition of general sales tax to replace consumption tax. This condition is, of course, subject to the approval of Parliament.
4. Clearance of all debt arrears within three months, either by payment or rescheduling through the Paris and London clubs of creditors.
5. The continued application of a flexible exchange rate and minimum exchange restrictions. The Jordanian dinar's current exchange rate was found to be realistic and acceptable. No devaluation is called for as long as Jordanian exports remain competitive.
6. The ceiling for custom protection in favour of domestic production will be 50 per cent. If an imported commodity is charged with more than 50 per cent, then the identical local commodity should be charged with the difference as a consumption tax, so that the net protection of any local commodity would not exceed 50 per cent. Luxurious goods with no similar local production can be charged with any rate and subjected to any restrictions in order to reduce their imports.
7. There will be a joint review and evaluation of economic performance every six months.
8. There will be a joint review and evaluation of monetary and fiscal performance every three months.

These are all the conditions agreed upon with the IMF for 1992. Upon the adjustment of fuel prices in the last

week of February all the conditions of the IMF adjustment programme have been fully satisfied. Any economic, financial, trade, or monetary measures taken by the government in the remainder of 1992 are not related to the programme.

It is obvious that the conditions agreed upon by Jordan are not that easy, but they are something we can live with, in order to achieve the vital objectives of the programme.

Iraqi-Origin VOA Employees Accused of News Bias
JN1003084492 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
10 Mar 92 p 2

[“Special to the JORDAN TIMES” by Sirin Halasah]

[Text] Amman—The dusting off and polishing of charges that Voice of America (VOA) employees of Iraqi origin used the American radio network to propagate pro-Iraqi views appears to bear all hallmarks of the pro-Israeli lobby in the United States, according to observers here.

The controversy was resolved last May but was revived again by what one American journalist, who preferred to remain anonymous, described as “part of the American Jewish campaign to discredit the American government and the Bush administration.”

The journalist, who had close contact with the events, said charges that some reports on the Gulf crisis were distorted by employees in the Arabic section of VOA had started before the war.

“The first story was a report by a stringer of VOA in Kuwait City who discredited reports of Iraqis pulling out babies from incubators emanating from the emirate,” the journalist said. “The report of our correspondent turned out to be true.”

Another story was one about the Shiite community in Saudi Arabia, which, according to the journalist, offended the Saudis. Another report, which incorporated the actual voice of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, was

also taken by many in the coalition against Iraq as an affront and was regarded biased.

“When the war started, many experts, especially in Jordan, were interviewed,” the journalist said. “And since Jordanians were pro-Iraqi, the sentiments of those experts and their remarks were taken as pro-Iraqi propaganda.”

The journalist explained that editors in the VOA main office in Washington were “choosing press reviews that were regarded as pro-Iraqi and anti-American.”

Eventually, and under pressure from Arab members in the anti-Iraq coalition, mainly the Saudis, the U.S. Congress appointed a special committee with an inspector general to look into the charges against VOA staff.

“Many reporters were interviewed,” the journalist said.

The final result of the committee was that the VOA reports during and after the war were “balanced.”

“The committee came out with the decision that there were little discrepancies but that these were not of large magnitude. So no major action was taken against VOA,” the journalist said.

“The story was finished, buried and forgotten last May,” he added. “I don’t know or understand why it has come up again.”

One explanation, the journalist said, is that the strain between Israel and the United States over the \$10 billion loan guarantees has led Jewish community to lead a smear campaign against “the American administration, and bringing up the story again is simply meant to embarrass the administration.”

King Husayn Visits Iceland

WA1003122592

For reportage on the visit by King Husayn to Iceland, including reports on his talks with the Icelandic president and his comments on the Middle East peace talks, please see the Nordic Countries section of the 9 March West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

German-Iranian Talks on Hostages Said Faltering

NC1003175392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] REUTER has cited a fundamentalist Islamic source close to Iran as saying that the talks between Germany and Iran to release the two German hostages being detained in Lebanon have stumbled after Germany refused to pledge to release Muhammad and 'Abbas Hammadi, who are accused of terrorist acts.

Germans To Be Freed in Next Few Days

NC1103063692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0415 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] In an interview with German television, Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib said that the two German hostages will be released in the next few days. The minister gave no additional details on the subject.

Buwayz Urges Meeting To Discuss Peace Talks

NC1003174792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1700 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has called for a quadripartite Arab meeting to be held in Beirut as soon as possible to discuss the outcome of the Arab-Israeli talks. Buwayz pointed out that he had told Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' of Lebanon's desire to host this meeting upon the return of the delegations from Washington, and the Syrian side agreed to this proposal. He noted that contacts will be held with Jordan and the PLO over this proposal.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese delegation to the bilateral talks—except for delegation head Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry director general—returned to Beirut this afternoon from Washington via Paris. Ambassador Shammas is expected to return to Beirut next week.

Syria's Talas Arrives; No Substantive Meetings

NC0903182392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1700 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Excerpt] General Mustafa Talas, Syrian deputy prime minister and defense minister, arrived in Beirut today leading a high-ranking military delegation to inspect the Syrian forces operating in Lebanon to mark the 8 March anniversary. He pointed out that he will meet with Lebanese counterpart Michel al-Murr but will not have any military or political meetings. On the future of Lebanese-Syrian relations under the cooperation and coordination treaty, Talas stressed that Syria and Lebanon are one country and one people who live in two independent countries. He said that he cannot imagine working without integrated unity between both countries. [passage omitted]

Mansur Sees External Conspiracy in Economic Woes

NC0803202992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1700 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Albert Mansur has asked citizens not to overlook the fact that external factors have a hand in the current economic crisis, noting that European nations have frozen assistance to Lebanon due to the German hostages being held here. Minister Mansur said that Israel is doing all it can to prevent Lebanon from progressing until the nation meets Israel's conditions for peace. Israel is also trying to prevent us from rebuilding our infrastructure, industry, and trade, and from making progress in the Arab world, he noted.

In a statement today, the information minister noted that the Cabinet has established a special committee to tackle the economic situation and living conditions, put things in order, and adopt whatever measures are needed. We have to view the issue from the general national perspective, he said, adding: I truly believe that something like a conspiracy is occurring. Is it sensible that after 16 years of war, he asked, not one country in the world is willing to assist us in emerging from our predicament?

Europe, for instance, refuses to help us, using the excuse that two Germans are still in captivity, Mansur said, noting: The whole world knows that the Lebanese have nothing to do with the kidnappings. All of Europe is unjustly holding the entire Lebanese people hostage due to the German hostage issue, he said. It is obvious that they are just looking for excuses not to help Lebanon, he added, because Israel does not want Lebanon to fully recover. Our recovery, Mansur said, would influence Israel in several ways. Israel believes that the Lebanese have the capability to compete with it, therefore, it employs all means, including covert ones, to achieve that end, he noted, adding: The European stand is an example. I have no doubt that the European stand is connected to Israeli pressure, he added, and we must not, therefore, ignore the external factor of the conspiracy. At the same time, we do not overlook the government's shortcomings and errors made by ministers and the government, he noted, saying: We should not overlook the positive aspects either. It is only fair to look at both sides and note the considerable achievements made at the security and political levels, he said. Considering the government's resources, the important achievements made at the social level in the fields of communications, electricity, and water are impressive, he added.

Minister Mansur underscored the need for government solidarity, noting that despite their differences, the ministers have shown solidarity over general policies.

In response to a question, Minister Mansur said he did not know why some Lebanese Television cameramen were barred from entering presidential headquarters, ruling out political reasons.

Israel Shells South; Resistance Stages Attack

NC1103093692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0900 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces this morning shelled Qabrikha and Majdal Silm and raked Wadi al-Saluqi with automatic weapons from their positions in al-Qantarah. At the same time, Israeli helicopters flew over the area and launched mock raids at low altitude over Iqlim al-Tuffah, drawing antiaircraft fire by the Lebanese Army.

At dawn today, a resistance group attacked a post jointly held by the occupation forces and the agents on the Tallusah road, killing or wounding a number of soldiers.

Islamic Resistance Claims Attack on SLA Post

NC1103114092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has claimed responsibility for today's attack on a South Lebanese Army [SLA] post near Tallusah village in which three SLA soldiers were wounded. A statement issued by the Islamic Resistance said that all the soldiers manning the post were killed or wounded.

Birri Announces Amal Congress Document

NC0503072292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0530 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] At a news conference yesterday, Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri read out the political document approved by the Amal Movement's eighth congress. He also responded to questions on the current situation.

The document calls for pursuing a policy of openness inside the Arab and Islamic worlds, affirming the constants of the strategic relationship with Syria, normalizing and strengthening relations with Iran, enhancing the forms of cooperation among the liberation movements in the Third World, and regarding the Damascus Declaration as a new start for putting an end to the spread of foreign armed forces in the area.

Regarding the local situation, the document calls for the formation of the broadest coalition to support the resistance in the south, the broadest national alliance to develop the political system of the government and the institutions, the enhancement of the coexistence formula, the concrete tackling of the economic situation, and the affirmation that the case of Imam al-Sadr and his two companions [who disappeared while on visit to Libya in 1978] as a comprehensive national case.

The news conference, which Minister Birri held at 1330 yesterday, was attended by Dr. Ayyub Humayyid, deputy leader of the Amal Movement, and Attorney Haytham Jum'ah, chairman of the Amal Movement's Executive Committee.

Iran**Azerbaijan Official Arrives, Holds Talks**

LD1003221192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Mr. Salamov, deputy foreign minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, arrived in Tehran this afternoon accompanied by two high-ranking advisers to the president of that republic. He then held a first round of talks with our country's deputy foreign minister in charge of European and American Affairs.

In the talks the latest situation in the Karabakh region as well as developments stemming from the recent measures adopted by the officials of the Azerbaijan Republic were explored. The two parties then exchanged views on ways and means of settling the dispute.

Officials Confer With Velayati

LD1103113792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati this morning received (Vafa Qolizadeh) and (Musa Baygrasem), respectively government adviser and deputy foreign minister of Azerbaijan [second title as heard], who have come to Iran as special envoys of that country to discuss the Karabakh issue.

At the meeting, which was a part of our foreign minister's mediation efforts to end the bloodshed and to resolve the Karabakh issue, the views and stands of the Azerbaijani Government and ways of solving the Karabakh problem and the dispute between the republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia were reviewed.

Dailies Warn Against U.S. Mediation in Karabakh

LD1003115892 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA—Two English-language dailies Tuesday regretted the recent bloodshed between the two newly-independent republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia and appealed to the belligerent parties to pursue peace and leave the door open to mediation.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL stressed that since Iran has tasted the bitter experience of war it is working hard to see that a full-scale war would not break out between two of its friends in the north.

"Turkey has shown a similar concern to contain and defuse the tension between the hostile parties," because the problem has taken the form of "campaigning to involve some NATO countries, especially the U.S."

However, it is generally believed that the key to any mediated settlement of the crisis is the extent to which Iran and Turkey can use their historical influence in Azerbaijan to broker a peace agreement.

"The problem with the U.S. mediation, as Turkey wants, is that once Washington gets involved the dispute will lose its regional character and will sink into greater superpower and strategic interests."

The article concluded by saying that irrespective of who mediates, this conflict will not succeed, if the mediators do not have the support of the parties in the conflict.

Commenting on the same subject TEHRAN TIMES said, "Most Americans do not even know where Armenia and Azerbaijan are, let alone have any idea what the dispute is about and regardless of whatever course of action the U.S. may decide upon, it can only be bad news for the region."

Furthermore, the article added, it could lead to the U.S. obtaining a foothold for the first time to encroach upon other former Soviet Union republics.

It underlined a firm decisive action to be carried out quickly and noted that Iran which neighbours both countries and has also both Armenian and Azeri communities living in its territory "is an ideal candidate to act as a sympathetic and experienced mediator."

Paper Warns Bern Against Disrupting Relations

LD1103115492 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—A morning daily Wednesday called on the Swiss officials to adopt a more rational stand towards her relations with Iran and do not let Bern-Tehran relations be abused by others who are after their own interests.

'ABRAR' made the call in reference to the arrest of Zia Sarhadi, a staff member of the Iranian Embassy in Bern for his alleged involvement in the assassination of Shapour Bakhtiar, the last prime minister of the defunct shah. Bakhtiar was stabbed to death in his Paris home August 6, 1991. The French Government is demanding Sarhadi's extradition from Switzerland where Sarhadi was arrested over two months ago.

The Swiss Government, contrary to its so-called strict adherence to human rights regulations, has ignored Sarhadi's diplomatic immunity and has held him in custody on baseless accusations, the daily noted. Switzerland intends to extradite Sarhadi to France in the near future and in order to exert further pressures on Iran it is claiming that the Swiss firms working on development projects in Iran are being terrorized by unidentified groups.

"The objective of the Swiss officials in spreading such baseless rumours is merely to promote and implicitly approve the poisonous propaganda of the West against Iran." Moreover, by making such accusations against Iran, the Swiss Government intends to bring the state of security in Iran under question and thus hinder active participation of foreign firms in infrastructural projects in the country.

The daily concluded by saying that under the present conditions disruption of Tehran-Bern diplomatic and economic ties will not be in the interest of the Swiss Government.

Velayati on Plight of Muslims in Burma

LD1003172692 Tehran IRNA in English 1537 GMT
10 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today called on the United Nations to pay due attention to the persecution of Muslims in Myanmar [Burma].

Velayati in a letter to the U.N. Secretary General Butrus Ghali, announced Iran's readiness to help the homeless Muslims driven into neighbouring Bangladesh by the Rangon regime.

Expressing concern over the brutal attitude of the Saw Maung regime towards the Myanmar Muslims and its impact on the region's security, Velayati hoped the U.N. secretary general would take immediate steps to stop the genocide in Myanmar.

He urged the world body to prepare the grounds for the recognition of the political and social rights of the Myanmar Muslims as well as their return to their homeland.

Over 170,000 Muslims uprooted from Arakan, Western Myanmar by the ruling regime, have so far taken refuge in Bangladesh, to escape the rape, torture and killings unleashed by the Saw Maung regime.

Cypriot Foreign Minister Criticizes Turkey

NC1103073492 Nicosia CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY
in English 1907 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Nicosia, Mar 10 (CNA)—Cyprus Foreign Minister Yeoryios Iakovou, currently on a two-day working visit to Iran, said Turkey torpedoed the agreed U.N. procedures in the efforts to settle the Cyprus problem.

According to an official announcement issued here on Tuesday Iakovou, referring to a recent round of U.N. Cyprus peace talks, told his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati that "Turkey did not only take a negative stance by withdrawing from previous commitments, but at the same time torpedoed the agreed procedure of the mandate of the U.N. secretary general."

The Cyprus Government had described the recent U.S. round of talks as "ineffective" due to the Turkish side's intransigence. [passage omitted]

*** Qualifications of Majles Deputies Announced**

92AS0645G London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] The Ministry of Interior of the Islamic Republic announced last week: The president, his vice president and advisers, members of the Council of Guardians, the

head of the administrative court of justice, the chief inspector of the country, and employees of the armed forces cannot nominate themselves as Majles representatives unless they resign from their positions two months prior to elections.

Also, the permanent Friday imams, the prosecutors, assistant prosecutors, judges, governors general and their advisers and deputies, directors general and heads of central offices, heads of Islamic propaganda offices and Construction Jihad throughout the country as well as the directors of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic are also prohibited from volunteering in the electoral districts where they serve unless they resign from their jobs two months prior to elections. Applicants for Majles representative must also register from 21-27 Esfand 1370 [12-18 March 1992] during a period of seven days in the centers of their electoral districts.

A candidate must hold practical belief in the religion of Islam, be a citizen of Iran, believe in the regime of the Islamic Republic, be literate, and express loyalty to the regime of the Islamic Republic. Good health and being at least 26 and at most 75 years of age are also among the required qualifications of the candidates.

Voters must also be at least 15 years of age and Iranian citizens.

*** Political, Ideological Revolution Guard Designated**

92AS0645C London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] Haj Sheykh Hoseyn Reza'i was appointed by Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i as the head of the political, ideological office of the Guards Corps division of the security forces.

The Guards Corps has now been combined with the revolution committees, police and gendarmerie, but their political, ideological division, which is managed under the supervision of the clerics affiliated with "SAVAMA," continues to operate independently.

*** Deputies' Boycott Stops Majles From Meeting**

92AS0645B London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] The government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani faced difficulties in the ratification of the 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] national budget in the Majles with the collective absence of a group of representatives, thus preventing the Majles from going into session to examine the details of his proposed budget.

According to some reports, there are more important reasons behind the absence of representatives opposing the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the Majles than preventing the examination of the budget bill. It is most likely part of the "strategy" this opposing faction will resort to in an attempt to cripple the government during the remainder of the legislative term of the third Majles.

* Army Officer Appointed Pasdaran Commander

92AS0645A London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] For the first time since the establishment of the Islamic Republic in Iran, an army officer has been appointed commander of one of the Guards Corps forces. Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i appointed General Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali, 54 years old, who until two years ago was the minister of defense of the regime, in place of Guard Hoseyn Dehqan, as the commander of the Air Force of the Guards Corps. Guard Dehqan, who was recently promoted to the rank of general as well, after only eight months of command over the Air Force of the Guards Corps, was removed from his position.

Although no official reason is given for the appointment of a general in the military Air Force as the commander of the Air Force of the Guards Corps, it is maintained that the incompetence of the previous commanders of this force, who could not make it a significant military force, as well as the corruption and substantial waste, to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars from the budgets of recent years that had been earmarked for the purchase of airplanes, missiles, and necessary spare and technical parts, are among the reasons for this change. On the other hand, the appointment of Gen. Jalali as the commander of the Air Force of the Guards Corps is most likely a step towards combining the Guards Corps with the Air Force of the Islamic Republic.

In a decree appointing Gen. Jalali, Khamene'i determined his duties as "bringing the Air Force of the Guards Corps to a worthy level of competence," "training experienced commanders," and making use of "all its capabilities." He wrote: "The personnel of the Air Force of the Guards Corps shall be responsible for valuing your presence in that force and extending to you their utmost cooperation."

Prior to this, the appointment of a guard by the name of 'Ali Shamkhani as the commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic created widespread protests in the Army and the Air Force and spurred the resignation of a number of commanders and members of that force.

Gen. Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali has undergone most of his military training in the United States and Pakistan and, before the Islamic Revolution, was the commander of the Air Force in Kerman. Jalali managed the Ministry of Defense of the Islamic Republic for four years.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Absolved in Financial Scandal

BK1003150992 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 92

[Text] The commission of inquiry into the cooperatives crisis has absolved the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, and the Ittefaq Group [Business House of Sharif's family] of all charges of illegal dealings with the

cooperative finance companies and has exonerated them of any role in the collapse of the cooperative finance system in the country. In an unprecedented move, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, had offered himself for accountability and ordered the establishment of a commission of inquiry to investigate into the affairs of cooperative finance companies following the opposition's allegations with Pakistan People's Party [PPP] being in the forefront. In pursuance of the prime minister's directive, a three-member commission headed by Mr. Justice Mohammad Afzal Lone, judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, and including as members two judges of the Lahore High Court, Mr. Justice Khalilur Rahman Khan and Mr. Justice Malik Akhter Hassan, were set up on 6th November last year to hold the inquiry.

The commission's report was released by the federal law secretary, Mr. Justice Ahsanul Haq, at a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon. In its report presented to the government, the commission ruled that no foundation stone exists for alleging that the prime minister and his family were using cooperative societies like their personal account.

The commission did not come across any evidence to corroborate allegations of misuse of political influence or executive authority by the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, to promote the interests of the Ittefaq Group. The commission, which also heard Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan, the counsel for Messrs. Salman Taseer, Khwaja Ahmed Tariq Rahim, and Malik Haqmin Khan, observed that Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's family could not be branded new industrialists. The commission noted that in 1972 when the industries were nationalized by the then federal government of PPP, Ittefaq Group had already set up five industries and Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif was then only a student. Stating that the prime minister's family was a known business house of the country, the commission noted that the group contributes five billion rupees to the GNP, paying one billion rupees annually to the national exchequer in taxes and duties and providing jobs to 10,000 persons directly and to many more indirectly.

The commission rejected the charge that when the loans were obtained by the Ittefaq group from NICFC [unknown cooperative finance corporation], Mian Mohammad Sharif was the chief executive and the advancing of these loans were made possible by including the limited companies and associations of persons into the fold of membership of the cooperative societies through illegal amendments or bylaws. A close examination of the dealings of various finance cooperative societies revealed that since 1986 various cooperative societies opened their membership to the companies or association of persons and were having financial dealings with various companies or firms. Giving specific examples in this regard, the commission noted that the relevant bylaw of the Mercantile Cooperative Financial Cooperation, Ltd. was amended to this effect by an officer working under control of the federal government

at a time when the PPP was in power and Mr. Ahsanul Haq Piracha was the minister of state for finance. Even before this amendment, which was made on June 18, 1989, the corporation had been dealing with the companies and firms. The Commission observed that the NICFC itself had been dealing with private companies and firms much before the amendment of its bylaws to include them into the fold of its membership.

The commission also did not agree with the contention that the loans advanced by NICFC to the Ittefaq Group together with those to the Shujat family were the sole or even the main cause of cooperative crisis. The commission noted that the percentage of loans advanced to these two groups were only 2.58 percent in the case of Ittefaq Group and 1.81 percent in the case of Shujat group of the total deposits of 20 billion rupees collected by all the societies operating in Punjab irrespective of the place of registration.

The commission questioned: Would it, therefore, be reasonable to assume that borrowing of loans by the two groups caused collapse of the cooperative structure in Punjab, especially when each of these borrowings was secured with security which also had the support of high credit reputation of the two groups? These societies, the commission observed, had not transacted any other business, except the purchase and sale of immovable property and huge amounts were embezzled by them in these transactions by overvaluing at the time of purchase and undervaluing at the time of sale. The commission observed that the financial empire of big cooperative societies was in any case bound to collapse and it was merely a question of time. Illegalities and irregularities were the main cause of the failure of the entire system of cooperative urban credits in the country. If the loans

advanced to the two groups on account of their relationship with the prime minister and the then chief minister of Punjab and the interior minister respectively are to be accepted as the real cause of bankruptcy of cooperative finance corporations, then the same can be said about the loans obtained by Senator Gulzar Ahmad Khan, Rana Shaukat Mahmud, Mr. Wasi Zafar, and Mr. Ghulam Dastgir Lak, who all belong to the Pakistan People's Party and have not as yet repaid the same, while the members and the undertakings of the other two groups have paid back and cleared their liability.

The commission said no instance was brought to our notice of default committed by the Ittefaq group in meeting out its financial obligations to any of the banks, DFIs [Development Finance Institutions], DRRs [expansion unknown] and cooperative finance corporations. According to the report, the allegations that in 1988-90, Ittefaq group taking undue advantage of the then chief minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, diverted the funds of cooperative societies to the use of their family business also received the attention of the commission. The version of the Ittefaq group on the other hand was that the PPP headed by Ms. Benazir Bhutto formed the government at the center in December 1988 and though Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif was elected as chief minister of Punjab, yet victimization of the family commenced. Government departments, authorities and agencies were used not only to damage the political image of Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif personally but also to destroy the business undertakings of Ittefaq group. The development finance institutions were directed to withdraw loans and also to stop financing which was already in the pipeline. The nationalized commercial banks, Pakistan railways, Central Board of Revenue, Water and Power Development Authority, and Karachi Port Trust were employed to annihilate the business of Ittefaq.